

Ser.no. 10/620,454
Amendment dated July 15, 2005
In Reply to Office Action dated April 15, 2005

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-14 have been cancelled. Claims 15-27 are new.

Regrettably the claims originally filed with this application did not clearly define the invention over the inventor's prior patent no. 5,735,632. Applicant has now prepared new claims which, it is submitted, do more clearly define the invention and distinguish it from the prior patent.

More specifically, the broadest new claim, claims 15, recites the following features not present in the prior patent:

1. the body being of molded plastic (whereas in the prior patent there were two separate tire sidewalls 15 and 9, lashed together by wire ties 25);
2. the upper and lower surfaces being generally parallel to each other, at a distance B from each other (whereas in the prior patent the sidewalls were not evenly spaced at any consistent distance); and
3. an integral outer wall extending around not all of the periphery, thereby leaving an opening between the upper and lower surfaces to permit insertion of ballast means into the body (whereas in the prior patent, the tire sidewalls overlap inconsistently and do not constitute an integral outer wall, and in fact are separate).

It is submitted that these differences define an improved product which is neither anticipated nor suggested by the prior patent and which constitute a new and inventive product.

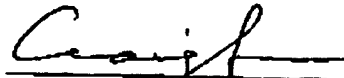
Dependent claims recite further features, including for example such features as a flange at the central opening to reduce the spacing from distance B to distance A, so as to trap the ballast means (e.g. tire treads), and other features as can be seen from the claims above.

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It is respectfully submitted that these new claims place the application in condition for allowance, which is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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